

CLAIMS

1. An interlocking animal toy system, comprising:
 - a first toy having a food chamber;
 - a second toy; and
 - 5 a means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy.
2. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a flared snap fit connection.
- 10 3. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a twist and lock connection.
- 15 4. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a threaded connection.

5. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a magnetic connection.

5 6. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a flange connection.

7. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for
10 removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a ribbed friction fit connection.

8. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for
removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a pin
15 connection.

9. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for
removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a clip
connection.

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10. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a nozzle connection.

5 11. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a union.

12. The interlocking animal toy system of claim 1, wherein said means for
10 removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises a coil.

13. An animal toy system comprising:

a first toy having a food-receiving chamber formed with a slotted opening having retention flaps, and having a nozzle leading from said chamber to an opening;

5 a second toy having a food-receiving chamber formed with a slotted opening having retention flaps, and having a nozzle leading from said chamber to an opening; and

wherein said nozzle of said first toy is removably insertable into said slotted opening of said second toy to retain said first toy and said second toy
10 together.

14. The animal toy system of claim 13, wherein said retention flaps of said second toy are deformable.

15 15. The animal toy system of claim 13, wherein said nozzle is surrounded by a rim and wherein said rim is insertable into said slotted opening to removably retain a portion of said nozzle within said slotted opening.

16. The animal toy system of claim 13 wherein at least one said chamber can
20 receive and dispense animal food.

17. The animal toy system of claim 16, wherein said animal food is passable from said chamber of said first toy to said chamber of said second toy.

18. The animal toy system of claim 16, wherein said animal food passes from
5 said chamber through said nozzle for consumption by an animal.

19. The animal toy system of claim 13, further comprising at least one restriction positioned within said food-receiving chamber to impede the passage of food from said chamber.

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20. An animal toy system comprising:

a first toy having a chamber formed with a slotted opening having retention flaps, and having a nozzle leading from said chamber to an opening;

a second toy having a chamber formed with a slotted opening having
15 retention flaps, and having a nozzle leading from said chamber to an opening;

a union having a first end formed with a slotted opening and a second end formed with a slotted opening; and

wherein said nozzle of said first toy is removably insertable into said slotted opening of said first end of said union, and said nozzle of said second toy
20 is removably insertable into said slotted opening of said second end of said union.

21. An animal toy system comprising:

a first toy having a chamber formed with a side hole, and having a top formed with an opening;

a second toy having a chamber formed with a side hole, and having a top
5 formed with an opening; and
a means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy.

22. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

10 said first toy formed with a side hole;

said second toy formed with a top formed with a flared rim about said top;

wherein said flared rim about said top opening of said second toy is
insertable into said side hole of said first toy to position said top of said first toy in
said side hole of said second toy to removably attach said first and said second
15 toy together.

23. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole and a retaining flange about said side hole, said retaining flange formed with a slot;

5 said second toy formed with a top opening and formed with a locking tab;
 wherein said locking tab of said top opening of said second toy is insertable into said slot of said flange of said side hole of said first toy to position said top of said first toy in said side hole of said second toy; and

 wherein said second toy is rotatable with respect to said first toy to
10 displace said locking tab from said slot to removably attach said first and said second toy together.

24. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

15 said first toy formed with a side hole having female helical thread;
 said second toy formed with a top formed with a male helical thread about said top, said male helical thread corresponding to said female helical thread;

 wherein said male helical thread of said second toy is threadable into said female helical thread in said side hole of said first toy to position said top of said
20 first toy in said side hole of said second toy to removably attach said first and said second toy together.

25. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having a first magnetic element;

said second toy formed with a top formed with a second magnetic
5 element, said first magnetic element and said second magnetic element having a magnetic attraction therebetween;

wherein said top of said second toy is insertable into said side hole of said first toy to position said first magnetic element adjacent said second magnetic element to establish a magnetic attraction therebetween to removably retain said
10 first toy and said second toy together.

26. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having a flange formed with mounting
15 holes;

said second toy formed with a top having a flange formed with mounting holes;

wherein said mounting holes on said flange on said top of said second toy correspond to said mounting holes on said flange on said side hole of said first
20 toy to receive a pin through said mounting holes, thereby retaining said first toy and said second toy together.

27. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having an annular groove;

5 said second toy formed with a top formed with an annular rib, said annular groove sized to receive said annular rib;

wherein said top of said second toy is insertable into said side hole of said first toy to position said annular rib in said annular groove to removably retain said first and said second toy together.

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28. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having a first pair of diametrically opposed bores;

15 said second toy formed with a top having a second pair of diametrically opposed bores, said bores in said top corresponding to said bores in said side hole;

wherein said top of said second toy is insertable into said side hole of said first toy to position said second pair of bores in alignment within said first pair of bores to receive a pin removably inserted through said first pair of bores and said
20 second pair of bores to attach said first and said second toy together.

29. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy having a side hole formed with a first flange having two or
5 more notches;

said second toy having a top formed with a second flange having two or more notches;

wherein said flange of said second toy is positionable adjacent said flange of said first toy to align two or more notches on said first flange with
10 corresponding notches on said second flange; and

a clip for each of said corresponding notches in said first flange and said second flange to removably attach said first toy and said second toy together.

30. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably
15 attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a side hole having deformable retention flaps;

said second toy having a top formed with a nozzle;

wherein said top of said second toy is insertable into said side hole and past said deformable retention flaps of said first toy to retain said first toy and
20 said second toy together.

31. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a nozzle;

said second toy formed with a nozzle;

5 a union having a first end formed with a hole having a first set of deformable retention flaps, and a second end formed with a hole having a second set of deformable retention flaps;

wherein said nozzle of said first toy is insertable into said hole formed in said first end and past said first set of deformable retention flaps, and said nozzle
10 of said second toy is insertable into said hole formed in said second end and past said second set of deformable retention flaps, to releasably join said union said first toy, and said second toy.

32. The animal toy system of claim 31, wherein said union is formed with a
15 passageway extending from said first end to said second end to provide for the movement of animal food from said first toy to said second toy.

33. The animal toy system of claim 31, wherein said union is substantially solid.

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34. The animal toy system of claim 21, wherein said means for removably attaching said first toy to said second toy further comprises:

said first toy formed with a hole having a first set of deformable retention flaps;

5 said second toy formed with a hole having a second set of deformable retention flaps;

a coil having a first end, and a second end;

wherein said first end of said coil is insertable into said hole formed in said first toy and past said first set of deformable retention flaps, and said second end
10 of said coil is insertable into said hole formed in said second toy and past said second set of deformable retention flaps, to releasably retain said coil between said first toy and said second toy.

35. The animal toy system of claim 34, wherein said coil is formed with a
15 passageway extending from said first end to said second end to provide for the movement of animal food from said first toy to said second toy.

36. The animal toy system of claim 34, wherein said coil is substantially solid.

37. A method of entertaining an animal with an animal toy system,
comprising the steps of:

providing a first toy having a food-receiving chamber formed with an
opening, and having a top;

5 providing a second toy having a food-receiving chamber formed with an
opening, and having a top; and

inserting said top of said first toy into said opening of said second toy; and

placing animal food within at least one food-receiving chamber wherein
said animal food exits said at least one food-receiving chamber through said top
10 when said animal manipulates said animal toy system.

38. The method of entertaining an animal with an animal toy system of
claim 37, further comprises providing a union extending between said first
toy and said second toy.

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39. The method of entertaining an animal with an animal toy system of
claim 37, further comprises providing a coil extending between said first toy
and said second toy.

40. A method of entertaining an animal with an animal toy system,
comprising the steps of:

providing a first toy having a food-receiving chamber formed with a top;

providing a second toy formed with an opening;

5 inserting said top of said first toy into said opening of said second toy; and

placing animal food within at least one food-receiving chamber wherein
said animal food exits said food-receiving chamber when said animal
manipulates said animal toy system.

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41. An interlocking animal toy system, comprising:

a first toy having an attachment feature;

a second toy having an attachment feature; and

wherein said attachment feature of said second toy is removably

15 attachable to said attachment feature of said first toy.